

MINUTES
REGULAR MEETING
CHARLOTTE HARBOR
COMMUNITY REDEVELOPMENT AGENCY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Monday, June 4, 2012 – 11:00 a.m.
County Administration Building – Room 119
18500 Murdock Circle, Port Charlotte, FL 33948

Members Present

James Herston, *Chairman*
Garland Wilson, *Vice Chairman*
Grace Amodeo, *Secretary*
Michael Haymans
Charlotte Ventola

Staff Present

Commissioner Stephen R. Deutsch
Debrah Forester, *Redevelopment Manager*
Roxann Read, *Planner II*
Elizabeth Spicer, *Event Planner*

Members Absent

Nathaniel Cooley
Eddie Hale

Guests

Deputy Miller

I. Call to Order

Chairman Herston called the May 7, 2012 meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee to order at 11:00 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Building.

II. Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Herston led the members and the audience in reciting the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. Roll Call/Determination of Quorum

Roll call was taken; Secretary Grace Amodeo confirmed a quorum was present.

IV. Additions/Deletions to Agenda – Mr. Herston requested that Mr. Drechsler's presentation be moved to the first item under Old Business. The committee agreed.

V. Approval of Minutes

Grace Amodeo noted that under the Sign Code discussion the minutes do not reflect that the committee had agreed to take no further action and she felt that should be noted. Since Jim Herston and Charlotte Ventola had both attended the May meeting she asked them to confirm the outcome. **A Motion was presented by Grace Amodeo to approve the Minutes of the May 7, 2012 meeting with the inclusion of a fourth bullet under the Sign Code Review to state: The consensus of the Committee was to keep the sign code as written. The Motion was seconded by Charlotte Ventola and was passed unanimously.**

VI. Commissioner Comments

Commissioner Deutsch advised the Committee that he had received a letter from Eddie Hale advising he needed to resign from the CRA Committee. The vacancy will be advertised at the June 26 BCC meeting. Commissioner Deutsch also noted that there is a new procedure to follow which includes completion of a form which is available by contacting the BCC office. (The committee members received a copy of Mr. Hale's resignation.)

VII. Public Comments –

Evelyn Loeffler provided the Committee with a copy of the Seminole Indian Casino logo and the Charlotte Harbor CRA logo and suggested that the two logos were very similar and wanted the Committee to review the two. Ms. Loeffler also noted that she was very pleased to hear the presentation on the playground equipment for Bayshore Live Oak Park. She would like to request that the equipment is placed in the shade.

VIII. Development Review Report – Advanced Auto has started the construction of the new facility on US 41.

IX. Old Business

- a. Tiki Water Sports – Mr. Jeff Drechsler is the owner of Tiki Water Sports and has a business location in Port Charlotte. He is developing a scope of services to provide the rental of kayaks, small catamarans, paddleboards, umbrellas and chairs to the general public at the Port Charlotte Beach Complex. He would like to have the same type of service available at the Harbor Walk project once the project is completed and is approved by the County. He is seeking input from the Committee to see if there would be an interest in providing similar services at Harbor Walk and what, if any, issues they may have. Mr. Drechsler noted that storage of the equipment is an issue. One option would be to have one or two storage trailers permitted on the site. A power outlet would also be needed. Ms. Forester noted that the bathroom facility will be at grade, so there is no room for storage. Ms. Forester asked about the feasibility of having the rentals available at Bayshore Park since there may be room for storage under the pavilion. Mr. Drechsler noted that the water level at certain times of the year did not make Bayshore Park a good location for the rentals. Ms. Amodeo asked if the rentals would be available year-round or just seasonal. Mr. Drechsler noted he would like the business to be year-round. Mr. Haymans pointed out that the Harbor Walk is the gateway into the community and that the CRA has focused a great deal of attention on improving the area and he did not support the placement of trailers at this location. Mr. Wilson asked if Beaches and Shores had reviewed this request. Mr. Kewley noted that they had not. Mike Haymans noted that having water related activities is a positive effort for the area but he cautioned on competing with fixed based operations when we are encouraging vendors that might have a negative impact on existing businesses. Mr. Drechsler responded that he did have a fixed business location on Peachland. Mr. Haymans clarified his concern by noting references to existing businesses in Charlotte Harbor that may provide similar services like Bayshore Marine. There was some discussion on the Sailing School that Mr. Peeks manages. Mr. Drechsler is on the Community Sailing Center's board and is aware of their efforts. Mr. Haymans noted that the Hands Across the Harbor event would like to expand and include a water event along with the run, walk and bike ride and stated he would contact Mr. Drechsler with more information on the event. Mr. Drechsler will keep the Committee informed on his progress at developing the services at the Beach Complex.
- b. Deputy Miller provided the Committee with a general report on activities in the area. Deputy Miller noted an improvement at Bayshore Live Oak Park and thought that the drinking ban had helped. The Sheriff's Office continues to patrol the area and Deputy Miller noted the value of citizen input in improving a neighborhood; he encouraged everyone to report any suspicious activities to him. There was one area of concern: people parking their cars at the foot of the south-bound bridge and having items taken from their vehicles. A number of these incidences are due to people not locking their car doors. Deputy Miller reminded everyone to lock their vehicles and to not keep valuables in their cars. There was a consensus of the Committee that Bayshore Park had improved.

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- c. Elizabeth Spicer Report – Ms. Spicer noted that publicity for the park events had improved and she brought samples of newspaper ads that include Bayshore Park. Ms. Spicer reported on a meeting with Community Services regarding the proposed playground equipment. Ms. Spicer thought the Committee would agree with the direction that was being taken on equipment options. The new playground equipment will be located near the Fireplace Pavilion. Community Service should be available to bring their recommendations to the Committee in approximately 5 weeks. Ms. Spicer reminded everyone to attend the Fishing Tournament and the 4th of July Celebration. Flyers on both of these events were distributed to the Committee.
 - d. Design Standards Review – Mr. Wilson presented an overview of the proposed changes he presented on the handout. He noted that most of the changes were to reorganize the regulations to make it easier for the end-user. Mr. Wilson shared with the Committee historic photos of the area and noted that these houses would not meet the current guidelines; historic accuracy is not being preserved. Discussion followed including the existing point system, the need for a larger color palate, and recognizing that the standards should be seen as encouraging quality developments not as regulations. Mr. Wilson stated that the photos available online were good and the Committee did not need to replace them. The Committee requested that the standards be retyped with Mr. Wilson's proposed revisions for ease in review and asked staff to have this item on the July Agenda.
 - e. Update on Harbor Walk – Ms. Forester reported that there are two outstanding items prior to all permits being received. One is with SWFWMD and the other is the lease with FDOT to use the property. Staff is working with the Attorneys Office to finalize the lease language and once it is completed it will go to the BCC for approval. Staff continues to track the status of a new national transportation bill for timing of funding options.
 - f. Bayshore Park New Bathroom Facility – Ms. Forester informed the Committee that construction plans have been sent to Purchasing to process the advertisement of the project for construction. The Facilities Department has estimated that construction should begin in 5 months.
 - g. 150 years – Date of Charlotte Harbor Establishment – Ms. Forester noted that she attended the Historical Advisory Committee (HAC) meeting to discuss a possible partnership to celebrate the establishment of Charlotte Harbor. At the meeting, Vernon Peeples, one of the HAC members, questioned the accuracy of the 1862 date. The date is identified in the Ordinance that established the Charlotte Harbor Historic Town. Mr. Peeples noted that there are no records of a "settlement" until later, closer to 1872. Ms. Forester stated that the HAC will continue to review the dates and if necessary request that the BCC amend the Ordinance with the correct date. Until that issue is resolved there is no need for planning a celebration this year and if the date is changed the CRA logo will also need to be changed. Mr. Haymans is a member of the HAC and stated that Mr. Peeples is very careful about establishing dates and the 1862 date was recorded by Lindsey Williams. Staff will continue to monitor the outcome of the review by the HAC.

X. New Business

Bayshore Park Logo – Ms. Forester noted that since the issue regarding the date of 1862 was raised, it appeared best to wait on creating a logo for the Park. If the current CRA logo has to be changed then it appeared to be more efficient to make the change to the date and create a

Bayshore Park logo at the same time. There is no specific timeframe on the park logo. The Committee agreed.

Hands Across the Harbor 2013 – Mike Haymans gave a report on the 2013 Kick Off meeting. Waste Management will continue to be the event sponsor and CHEC the beneficiary. This year the committee would like to add a water event and they would like to provide activities that will encourage participants to stay longer at the Park and enjoy the event. The 2013 event will be at Bayshore Park again due to the construction at Gilchrist. Mr. Haymans encouraged everyone to mark their calendars and plan on attending. He will keep them informed on the progress.

XI. Correspondence/Communications – The following information was forwarded with the meeting packet:

- Minutes from Punta Gorda CRA meeting of May 2, 2012.

XII. Public Comments

Clif Kewley commended the Committee for taking on the discussion of vision for housing stock but believes that more work is needed, including a vision for Bayshore Road.

Delmar Wooden advised he will be demolishing his existing home and will be rebuilding. The point system in the architectural standards was an inspiration during the design phase of their new home. The house will include a metal roof and a veranda. The construction documents should be completed at the end of the week and construction should start this summer.

XIII. Staff Comments – Ms. Forester provided an update on the Watershed Master Plan – the two construction projects are at 50% design and 90% plans are expected in 30 days. Construction is expected to start this fall after the rainy season.

XIV. Attorney Comments – Derek Rooney was not present at this time.

XV. Member Comments - None

XVI. Next Meeting Date

The next regular meeting of the Charlotte Harbor Community Redevelopment Agency Advisory Committee will be held on Monday, July 9, 2012 at 11 a.m. in Room 119 of the Charlotte County Administration Center.

XVII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting ADJOURNED at 12:28 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Grace E. Amodeo, Secretary

Approved: 